

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

II. CONCISE EXPLANATION OF THE RELEVANCE (check at least one box)

- ☒ Except as may be subsequently indicated in this section II, a concise explanation is not required as all of the patents, publications, applications or other information are in the English language, or the degree of relevance of each is indicated in the English language version of the International Search Report, which accompanies this IDS.
- ☐ A concise explanation of the relevance, as it is presently understood by the individual designated in 1.56(a) most knowledgeable about the content of the information, of all patents, publications, applications or other information listed that is not in the English language.
- ☐ A copy of the translation of a non-English Language document, or portion thereof. (e.g., a translation of an abstract)
- ☐ Any patent, publication, pending U.S. application or other information that is listed on PTO form SB/08A, which are not enclosed herewith were previously cited by or submitted to the Office in one of the following applications that has been relied on for an earlier effective filing date under 35 U.S.C 120 and the IDS submitted in the earlier application complies with paragraphs (a) through (c) of 1.98:

U.S. Application Serial No.	U.S. Filing Date

III. THIS IDS IS BEING FILED UNDER 37 C.F.R. 1.97(b): (check one box)

- ☒ Within three months of the filing date of a national application other than a continued prosecution application under 1.53(d).
- ☐ Within three months of the date of entry of the national stage as set forth in 1.491 in an international application.
- ☐ Before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits. In the event that a first Office Action on the merits has been mailed, please consider this IDS under 37 C.F.R. 1.97(c) and see the statement under 1.97(e) or charge deposit account 50-2091 the fee specified by 37 C.F.R. 1.17(p) if such statement is not selected in Section VI.
- ☐ Before the mailing of a first Office Action after the filing of a request for continued examination under 1.114.

IV. THIS IDS IS BEING FILED UNDER 37 C.F.R. 1.97(c):

- ☐ After the period specified in 27 C.F.R. 1.97(b) and before the mailing date of any of a final action under 1.113, a notice of allowance under 1.311 or an action that otherwise closes prosecution in the application, and accompanied by:
- ☐ a statement specified in 1.97(e) as subsequently provided in this IDS;
or
- ☐ the fee set forth in 1.17(p).

V. THIS IDS IS BEING FILED UNDER 37 C.F.R. 1.97(d):

- ☐ After the period specified in 27 C.F.R. 1.97(c) and on or before the payment of the issue fee, and it is accompanied by a statement specified in 1.97(e) as subsequently provided in this IDS **and** the fee set forth in 1.17(p).

VI. Statement under 37 C.F.R. 1.97(e) (check only one box)
The undersigned hereby states that:

- ☐ Each item of information contained in the IDS was first cited in any communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this IDS.
- ☐ No item of information contained in the IDS was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application, and, to knowledge of the person signing the certification after making reasonable inquiry, no item of information contained in the IDS was known to any individual designated in 37 C.F.R. 1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of this IDS.

VII. PAYMENT OF FEES (check one box)

- ☐ A check in the amount of \$_____ is enclosed for fees due with respect to this IDS.
- ☐ Please charge Deposit Account No.____in the amount of \$_____ for the fees due with respect to this IDS. A duplicate copy of this paper is included with this IDS.

VIII. CONCLUSION

It is respectfully submitted that the claims presently on file patently distinguish the present invention from each of these references cited in this IDS. The references cited in this IDS are being cited only in the interests of candor and without any admission that they constitute statutory prior art or contain matter which anticipates the invention or which would render the same obvious, either singly or in a combination, to a person of ordinary skill in the art. Furthermore the filing of this IDS should not be construed to be an admission that the information cited in this IDS is, or is considered to be, material to patentability as defined in 1.56(b). In addition, the filing of this IDS should not be construed as a representation that a search has been made.

If the Examiner has any questions concerning this IDS, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number associated with Customer No. 29906. If it is determined that this IDS has been filed under the wrong rule, the PTO is requested to consider this IDS under the proper rule, with a petition if necessary, and charge the appropriate fee to Deposit Account No. 50-2091.

Please charge any additional fees or credit any overpayment related to this IDS to Deposit Account No. 50-2091.

Date: 2/20/04

Respectfully submitted,

By: 

Paul D. Amrozowicz
Reg. No. 45,264

Ingrassia Fisher & Lorenz, P.C.
Customer No. 29906

Enclosures: ☒ PTO-SB/08A
☐ References
☐ Foreign Search Report
☐ Fee
☐ Other:

Substitute for form 1449/PTO			Complete if Known		
INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT (use as many sheets as necessary)			Application Number	Unknown	
			Filing Date	Filed concurrently herewith	
			First Named Inventor	John F. Thurston	
			Art Unit	Unknown	
			Examiner Name	Unknown	
Sheet	1	of	2	Attorney Docket Number	H0006428--1180

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS					
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Document Number	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		Number - Kind Code ² (if known)			
		US-3,175,569	03/30/1965	E. U. Sowers III	
		US-3,199,782	08/10/1965	J. N. Shinn	
		US-3,289,687	12/06/1966	J. C. Dunaway	
		US-3,333,596	08/01/1967	S. Bottone, Jr.	
		US-3,357,441	12/12/1967	R. B. Adams	
		US-3,499,460	03/10/1970	C. W. Rainer	
		US-3,581,757	06/01/1971	C. F. Pavlin et al.	
		US-3,877,486	04/15/1975	Merrell et al.	
		US-4,194,095	03/18/1980	Doi et al.	
		US-4,291,395	09/22/1981	Holmes	
		US-4,445,377	05/01/1984	Tippetts	
		US-4,678,009	07/07/1987	Mon	
		US-5,067,509	11/26/1991	Hunter	
		US-5,893,383	04/13/1999	Facteau	
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FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS						
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Foreign Patent Document	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	T ⁶
		Country Code ³ - Number ⁴ - Kind Code ⁵ (if known)				

Examiner Signature	Date Considered
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Examiner: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation in not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant. ¹Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). ²See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at www.uspto.gov or MPEP 901.04. ³Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ⁴For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. ⁶Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 2 hours to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, Washington, DC 20231. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

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Substitute for form 1449B/PTO INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT <i>(use as many sheets as necessary)</i>				Complete if Known	
				Application Number	Unknown
				Filing Date	Filed concurrently herewith
				First Named Inventor	John F. Thurston
				Art Unit	Unknown
				Examiner Name	Unknown
				Attorney Docket Number	H0006428--1180
Sheet	2	of	2		

[illegible]

Examiner Signature		Date Considered	
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*Examiner: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation in not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

¹Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). ²Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

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